

Venice Justice Committee
PO Box 2881, Venice CA 90294
Public Comment

Re: Council File 14-1057 Ordinance Extending LAMC 85.02
Agenda Items 1 & 3, Homeless and Poverty Committee, May 30, 2018
Re: Council File 18-0359 Increased Enforcement Zones LAMC 85.02
Agenda Item 2, Homeless and Poverty Committee, May 30, 2018

To: Councilmember Harris-Dawson
Councilmember Rodriguez
Councilmember Bonin
Councilmember Huizar
Councilmember Price

Date: 5-30-18
Submitted in HHP Committee
Council File No: 18-0359
Item No.: 2
Deputy: PUBLIC

CC: Committee Legislative Assistant Villanueva
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Members of the Venice Justice Committee are opposed to extending or expanding LAMC 85.02, LA City Law Prohibiting Living in Vehicle.

The 2017 LAHSA count of people living in vehicles in the City of Los Angeles of over 4,500 was problematic, reflecting an underestimate of the true numbers. We estimated it to be closer to 8,000 vehicle dwellers in 2017.

The 2018 LAHSA number of people experiencing homelessness and dwelling in vehicles is expected to be 25% higher than the 2017 count. This is a dramatic possible increase.

The vehicle dweller populations in Los Angeles are low and extremely low income people who often are disabled, aged out of a profession, evicted, unable to afford rent, and people suffering from trauma.

The City of Los Angeles has followed a trend of using street signs and laws to displace, remove and further traumatize this population with enforcement.

Services, such as a Safe Parking program or appropriate low-income housing, should not be an afterthought, like or a drop of carrot juice compared to the heavy handed stick of increasing laws that displace and traumatize an already downtrodden population.

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LAMC 85.02 is a complicated law in application; it has maps riddled with error that require access online. It wrongly restricts access to the City's few options for sanitary facilities by making it illegal to be within 500 feet of a park 24 hours a day. Maps, if found online, send oversized vehicles to places with No Oversized Vehicle 2-6am signs posted, 2hour parking only signs, and No Parking signs.

This is inhumane for a person living on Social Security Income, someone who may have purchased an RV or van with the one-time limited settlement after waiting a long time to get approved for Social Security and now may have vehicle repairs they can't afford.

Unless the City of Los Angeles has Safe Parking or actual Housing for a majority of the population now expected to be living in vehicles, enforcing or extending this law is wrong and inhumane. Not only is it wrong and inhumane, there is a liability to the City regarding litigation.

Creating a scant number Safe Parking spaces is no justification to leave thousands of vehicle dwellers behind to deal with increased enforcement of LAMC 85.02, selective enforcement of LAMC 80.73, the increased use of LAMC 80.69 or LAMC 80.54, and all the other restrictive municipal codes used to displace or remove people living in vehicles.

These are human beings with stories and lives that matter. They deserve civil and human rights.



Organizer, Venice Justice Committee